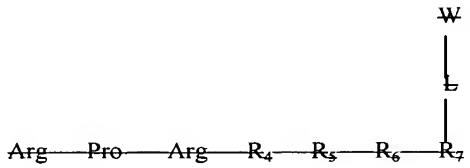
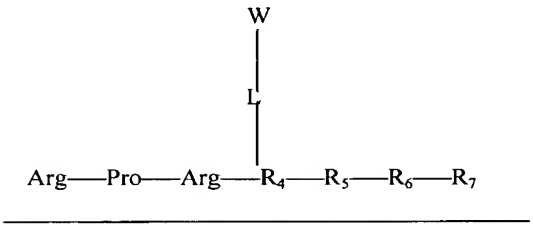
Amendments to the Specification

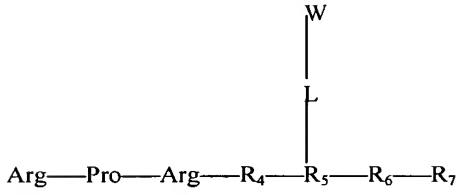
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

--Additional preferred embodiments of the present invention comprise a compound of Formulae IIa-IId:

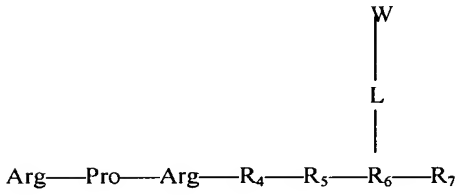




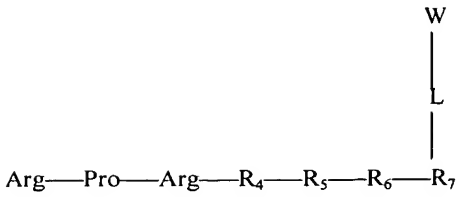
Formula IIa



Formula IIb



Formula IIc



Formula IId

wherein:

R_4, R_5, and R_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of threonine, serine, glutamic acid allyl ester, homocitrulline, lysine, methionine, norleucine, ornithine, arginine, glycine, diaminopropionic acid, diaminobutyric acid, $GlyNH_2$, and alanine; or are an N^{α}-ω-functionalized derivative of an amino acid selected from the group of glycine, alanine and tyrosine;

R_7 is selected from the group consisting of phenylalanine, homoleucine, norleucine, glutamic acid allyl ester;

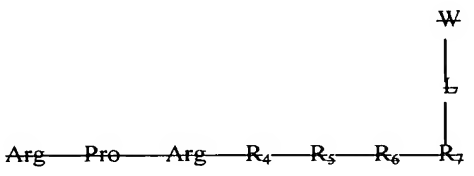
W is absent or is N- (8-sulfonamide-5-isoquinoline) ethylenediamine; and

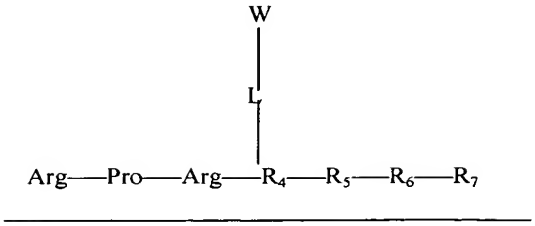
L may be absent or is selected from the group consisting of glycine, (β-alanine, phenylalanine, aminobutyric acid and aminopentanoic acid.

Preferably, W is connected to R_5 as described in Formula IIb.--

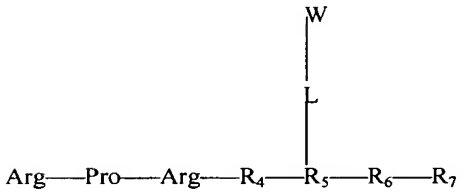
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

--Additional preferred embodiments of the present invention comprise a compound of Formulae IIa-IId:

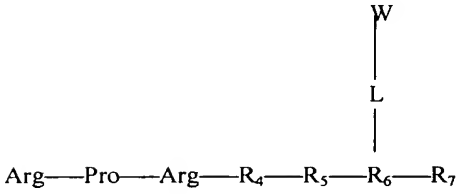




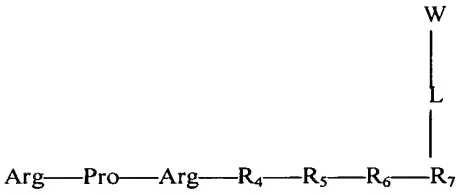
Formula IIa



Formula IIb



Formula IIc



Formula IId

wherein:

R_4, R_5, and R_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of threonine, serine, glutamic acid allyl ester, homocitrulline, lysine, methionine, norleucine, ornithine,

arginine, glycine, diaminopropionic acid, diaminobutyric acid, $GlyNH_2$, and alanine; or are an N^{α}-ω-functionalized derivative of an amino acid selected from the group of Glycine, Alanine and Tyrosine;

R_7 is selected from the group consisting of phenylalanine, homoleucine, norleucine, glutamic acid allyl ester;

W is absent or is N- (8-sulfonamide-5-isoquinoline) ethylenediamine; and

L may be absent or is selected from the group consisting of glycine, (β-alanine, phenylalanine, aminobutyric acid and aminopentanoic acid.

Preferably, W is connected to R_5 as described in Formula IIb.--